



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/727,479	12/04/2003	Mark Kraus	MS1-2715US	6237
22801	7590	09/19/2007		
LEE & HAYES PLLC 421 W RIVERSIDE AVENUE SUITE 500 SPOKANE, WA 99201			EXAMINER HA, LEYNNA A	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2135	
			MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			09/19/2007	PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/727,479

Applicant(s)

KRAUS ET AL.

Examiner

LEYNNA T. HA

Art Unit

2135

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 July 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-34 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-34 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### **DETAILED ACTION**

1. Claims 1-34 are pending.

#### ***Response to Arguments***

2. Applicant's arguments filed 7/3/07 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Examiner traverses the argument on pg.15-16, that Cromer does not suggest that the boot BIOS is stored in a protected are of flash memory. However, according to Cromer on col.5, lines 6-14, explains the storage of the master public key and master private key in protected storage wherein such data blocks are utilized in order to provide authentication/authorization during boot procedure for a computer attached to a network. This suggests a protected are of flash memory because Cromer indicates a protected storage device 262 that cannot be read or written to by any other device (col.4, lines 37-38). Cromer discloses flash memory 242 is electrically erasable programmable read only memory module where this reads on the unprotected area because it is erasable read only. Thus, flash memory 242 is an unprotected area versus the protected storage device 262 is an area in which no other device is able to read or write to it.

Examiner traverses the argument on end of pg.16, that Cromer fails to examine an image of the operating system. Cromer discloses a determination of whether a first selected device contains an image of a desired operating system such that when there

Art Unit: 2135

contains an image, a determination of the image is bootable (col.5, lines 28-31). This suggests examining an image of the operating system because Cromer included the determining process if there is an image. Thus, also suggest whether the image is programmed or not if not bootable.

Examiner traverses the argument on pg.18, that Vanderpool does not disclose images of resource-sparing operating system images. Applicant has mention on pg.13, that resource-sparing operating system is well known in the art is often implemented in computing device that have limited storage and memory resources. Vanderpool suggests such resource-sparing operating system because his computer system have at least 16 Mbytes of RAM memory. This suggest a computing device having limited storage and memory resources (col.7, lines 15-18 and col.11, lines 31-35). Further, applicant indicated Vanderpool's images are in standard JPEG format. However, Vanderpool merely explains the compression/decompression process which performs decompression similar to a JPEG format (col.11, lines 36-41). Vanderpool does not insinuate the images are only in JPEG format. Vanderpool suggests creating a first hash of the created image (col.8, lines 4-15) and a second hash of the image from the catalog file where the second image obviously is a stored has that will be used as a reference to during the comparison process (col.8, lines 35-40). Innuendo, Cromer also suggests first and second hash. Thus, the Vanderpool and Cromer combination obviously teaches the claimed invention.

As per the argument on pg.19, where Vanderpool fails to disclose blocking the use of the image to boot the computing device when the first hash and the second hash

Art Unit: 2135

do not match is traversed. Cromer is combined with Vanderpool to teach this limitation. Cromer disclose a method and system for performing an authenticated boot of a computer system wherein the boot process for a computer system attached to a network is authenticated to ensure authorized access to an operating system image (col.1, lines 48-51 and col.5, lines 63-65). Cromer disclose a pre specified list of bootable devices is presented to the user for selection and a determination of the selected device whether it contains an image of a desired operating system (col.5, lines 22-35). Comer discusses hashing the boot record with a hash algorithm and determines if the system boots approves or not whereby a password is requested if the boot records are not approved. Thereafter, if the password is invalid, then the system is halted (col.5, lines 40-47). Further, Cromer discloses comparing the decrypted received hash to a list of authorized operating system boot record hashes (col.5, lines 55-56). Based on the whether the received hash matches an authorized hash, the system then boots or halts appropriately (col.5, lines 59-62). The list of authorized operating system boot record hashes is obviously the claimed second hash of the image from the catalog file because as established earlier, the catalog file is merely a listing of specific information. This reads on the claimed second hash of the image from the catalog file and blocking the use of the image to boot the computing device when the first hash and the second hash do not match. Therefore, it would have been obvious for a person of ordinary skills in the art to combine the teaching of Vanderpool with the teach of blocking the use of the image to boot the computing device when the first hash and the second hash do not match as taught by Cromer because this ensures the boot process

Art Unit: 2135

for a computer system is authenticated to ensure authorized access to an operating system image which avoids booting an incorrect operating system image (col.5, lines 55-67).

All dependent claims are also rejected by virtue of the dependency.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

**3. Claims 23-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Cromer, et al. (US 6,684,326).**

**As per claim 23:**

Cromer discloses a portable computing device, comprising:

flash memory, the flash memory including a protected area and an unprotected area; (col.3, lines 24-25 and col.4, lines 34-57; showing protected storage device as the protected are of the flash memory)

Art Unit: 2135

a bootloader stored in the protected area of flash memory, the bootloader containing a crypto module; (**col.4, lines 16-22 and col.5, lines 6-14; discusses the bootloader information for authentication/authorization during a boot procedure.**)

an operating system image stored in the unprotected area of flash memory; (**col.3, lines 23-27**)

random access memory (RAM); and (**col.11, lines 31-35**)

wherein the crypto module of the bootloader is operative to examine an image update to determine if the image update should be programmed into the unprotected area of flash memory to boot the device based on information included in a signed catalog file embedded in the image update. (**col.5, lines 8-14 and 28-62**)

**As per claim 24:** see Cromer on col.3, lines 22-26; discussing device of claim 23, wherein the crypto module programs the image update into the unprotected area of flash memory when the device is in test mode.

**As per claim 25:** see Cromer on col.3, lines 22-26 and col.5, lines 17-35; discussing device of claim 23, wherein the bootloader stores the image update in the RAM until the crypto module determines that the image update should be programmed into the unprotected area of flash memory to boot the device.

**As per claim 26:** see Cromer on col.5, lines 38-62; discussing device of claim 25, wherein the crypto module calculates a first hash of the image update, extracts a second hash from the catalog file, and compares the first hash and the second hash, the crypto module blocking use of the image update when the first hash and the second hash do not match.

Art Unit: 2135

**As per claim 27: see Cromer on col.1, lines 53-57 and col.5, lines 11-67;**

discussing device of claim 25, wherein the crypto module extracts a signature certification from the catalog file and attempts to validate the signature certification, the crypto module blocking use of the image update when the signature certification cannot be validated.

**As per claim 28: see Cromer on col.5, lines 12-14 and 38-62;** discussing device of claim 25, wherein the crypto module extracts make and model attributes from the catalog file and compares them to make and model information for the device, the crypto module blocking use of the image update when the make and model attributes of the image update do not match the make and model attributes of the device.

**As per claim 29: see Cromer on col.3, lines 22-26;** discussing device of claim 25, wherein the bootloader erases a current device image from the unprotected area of flash memory and programs the image update into the unprotected area of flash memory when the crypto modules determines that the image update may be used to boot the device.

**As per claim 30: see Cromer on col.1, lines 53-57 and col.5, lines 12-14 and 38-62;** discussing device of claim 23, wherein a second crypto module of a Mira shell is operative upon a reset of the device to examine the installed operating system image to determine if the installed operating system image should be used to boot the device based on information included in a signed catalog file embedded in the installed operating system image.

**As per claim 31: see Cromer on col.5, lines 55-67;** discussing device of claim 30,



Art Unit: 2135

wherein the crypto module in the Mira shell calculates a first hash of the install operating system image; extracts a second hash from the catalog file, and compares the first hash and the second hash, the crypto module in the Mira shell blocking use of the image update when the first hash and the second hash do not match.

**As per claim 32: see Cromer col.1, lines 53-57 and col.5, lines 11-14 and 55-67;**

discussing device of claim 30, wherein the crypto module in the Mira shell extracts a signature certification from the catalog file and attempts to validate the signature certification, the crypto module in the Mira shell blocking use of the installed operating system image when the signature certification cannot be validated.

**As per claim 33: see Cromer on col.5, lines 27-55;** discussing device of claim 30, wherein the crypto module in the Mira shell extracts make and model attributes from the catalog file and compares them to make and model information for the device, the crypto module in the Mira shell blocking use of the installed operating system image when the make and model attributes of the installed operating system image do not match the make and model attributes of the device.

**As per claim 34: see Cromer on col.5, lines 15-26;** discussing device of claim 30, wherein the crypto module in the Mira shell allows the installed operating system image to be used to boot the device when the device is in test mode.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

**4. Claims 1-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Vanderpool, et al. (US 5,781,773), and further in view of Cromer, et al. (US 6,684,326).**

**As per claim 1:**

Vanderpool discloses a method of file system protection for a resource-sparing operating

system (OS) image, comprising the steps of:

loading the image into random access memory (RAM), the image including a catalog file embedded therein; **(col.11, lines 31-35)**

creating a first hash of the image; **(col.8, lines 5-15)**

extracting a second hash of the image from the catalog file; and **(col.7, line 63 – col.8, line 40)**

*[blocking use of the image to boot the computing device when the first hash and the second hash do not match].*

The catalog file can broadly interpret as a list containing specific information (i.e. name, location, or hash algorithm). Vanderpool discloses digital audio and compressed

Art Unit: 2135

video (image) may also be linked to the data record by listing number and copied to and stored in the subdirectories under a hash algorithm as a function of the listing number.

Vanderpool discloses listing or directories of hash algorithms corresponding to a thumbnail image and its filenames reads on the claimed hash of the image from the catalog file. (col.7, line 63 – col.8, line 40). Vanderpool includes hashing of the images extracting a second hash of the image from the catalog file, but did not go further in details of a comparison/matching process. Thus, Vanderpool did not include blocking the use of the image to boot the computing device when the first hash and the second hash do not match.

Cromer disclose a method and system for performing an authenticated boot of a computer system wherein the boot process for a computer system attached to a network is authenticated to ensure authorized access to an operating system image (col.1, lines 48-51 and col.5, lines 63-65). Cromer disclose a pre specified list of bootable devices is presented to the user for selection and a determination of the selected device whether it contains an image of a desired operating system (col.5, lines 22-35). Comer discusses hashing the boot record with a hash algorithm and determines if the system boots approves or not whereby a password is requested if the boot records are not approved. Thereafter, if the password is invalid, then the system is halted (col.5, lines 40-47). Further, Cromer discloses comparing the decrypted received hash to a list of authorized operating system boot record hashes (col.5, lines 55-56). Based on the whether the received hash matches an authorized hash, the system then boots or halts appropriately (col.5, lines 59-62). The list of authorized operating system

Art Unit: 2135

boot record hashes is obviously the claimed second hash of the image from the catalog file because as established earlier, the catalog file is merely a listing of specific information. This reads on the claimed second hash of the image from the catalog file and blocking the use of the image to boot the computing device when the first hash and the second hash do not match.

Therefore, it would have been obvious for a person of ordinary skills in the art to combine the teaching of Vanderpool with the teach of blocking the use of the image to boot the computing device when the first hash and the second hash do not match as taught by Cromer because this ensures the boot process for a computer system is authenticated to ensure authorized access to an operating system image which avoids booting an incorrect operating system image (col.5, lines 55-67).

**As per claim 2:** see Cromer on col.5, lines 55-67; discussing the method of claim 1, wherein the step of blocking the use of the image to boot the computing device when the first hash and the second hash do not match comprises the step of determining an operational mode of the computing device is set to a run mode of operation.

**As per claim 3:** see Cromer on col.3, lines 22-26 and col.5, lines 15-18; discussing method of claim 2, wherein the step of blocking the use of the image to boot the computing device when the first hash and the second hash do not match is bypassed when the step of determining the operational mode of the computing device is set to a test mode of operation, the method further comprising the step of loading the image into a flash memory of the computing device.

**As per claim 4:** see Cromer on col.1, lines 53-57 and col.5, lines 11-67;

Art Unit: 2135

discussing method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of validating a signature certification of the catalog file, and blocking the use of the image to boot the computing device when the signature certification of the catalog file cannot be validated.

**As per claim 5: see Cromer on col.1, lines 53-57 and col.5, lines 11-67;**

discussing method of claim 4, wherein the step of blocking the use of the image to boot the computing device when the signature certification of the catalog file cannot be validated comprises the step of determining an operational mode of the computing device is set to a run mode of operation.

**As per claim 6: see Cromer on col.1, lines 50-52 and col.3, lines 22-26;**

discussing method of claim 5, wherein the step of blocking the use of the image to boot the computing device when the signature certification of the catalog file cannot be validated is bypassed when the step of determining the operational mode of the computing device is set to a test mode of operation, the method further comprising the step of loading the image into a flash memory of the computing device.

**As per claim 7: see Cromer on col.5, lines 55-67;** discussing method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of extracting first make and model attributes from the catalog file, comparing the first make and model attributes from the catalog file with second make and model attributes of the computing device, and blocking the use of the image to boot the computing device when the first make and model attributes do not match the second make and model attributes.

**As per claim 8: see Cromer on col.5, lines 55-67;** discussing method of claim 7, wherein the step of blocking the use of the image to boot the computing device when

Art Unit: 2135

the first make and model attributes do not match the second make and model attributes comprises the step of determining an operational mode of the computing device is set to a run mode of operation.

**As per claim 9:** see Cromer on col.1, lines 50-52 and col.3, lines 22-26 and col.5, lines 15-18; discussing method of claim 8, wherein the step of blocking the use of the image to boot the computing device when the first make and model attributes do not match the second make and model attributes is bypassed when the step of determining the operational mode of the computing device is set to a test mode of operation, the method further comprising the step of loading the image into a flash memory of the computing device.

**As per claim 10:** see Cromer on col.3, lines 22-26; discussing method of claim 1, further comprising the step of booting the computing device from a prior image already loaded in flash memory of the computing device.

**As per claim 11:**

Vanderpool discloses a method of file system protection for a resource-sparing operating system (OS) image, the image including a catalog file embedded therein, comprising the steps of:

examining the catalog file and the image to determine if the image is a properly released image; and (col.11, lines 31-35)

*[blocking use of the image to boot the computing device when the step of examining determines that the image is not a properly released image].*

The catalog file can broadly interpret as a list containing specific information (i.e. name, location, or hash algorithm). Vanderpool discloses digital audio and compressed video (image) may also be linked to the data record by listing number and copied to and stored in the subdirectories under a hash algorithm as a function of the listing number. Vanderpool discloses listing or directories of hash algorithms corresponding to a thumbnail image and its filenames reads on the claimed hash of the image from the catalog file. (col.7, line 63 – col.8, line 40). Vanderpool includes hashing of the images extracting a second hash of the image from the catalog file, but did not go further in details of a comparison/matching process. Thus, Vanderpool did not include blocking the use of the image to boot the computing device when the first hash and the second hash do not match.

Cromer disclose a method and system for performing an authenticated boot of a computer system wherein the boot process for a computer system attached to a network is authenticated to ensure authorized access to an operating system image (col.1, lines 48-51 and col.5, lines 63-65). Cromer disclose a pre specified list of bootable devices is presented to the user for selection and a determination of the selected device whether it contains an image of a desired operating system (col.5, lines 22-35). Comer discusses hashing the boot record with a hash algorithm and determines if the system boots approves or not whereby a password is requested if the boot records are not approved. Thereafter, if the password is invalid, then the system is halted (col.5, lines 40-47). Further, Cromer discloses comparing the decrypted received hash to a list of authorized operating system boot record hashes (col.5, lines 55-56).

Art Unit: 2135

Based on the whether the received hash matches an authorized hash, the system then boots or halts appropriately (col.5, lines 59-62). The list of authorized operating system boot record hashes is obviously the claimed second hash of the image from the catalog file because as established earlier, the catalog file is merely a listing of specific information. This reads on the claimed second hash of the image from the catalog file and blocking the use of the image to boot the computing device when the first hash and the second hash do not match.

Therefore, it would have been obvious for a person of ordinary skills in the art to combine the teaching of Vanderpool with the teach of blocking the use of the image to boot the computing device when the first hash and the second hash do not match as taught by Cromer because this ensures the boot process for a computer system is authenticated to ensure authorized access to an operating system image which avoids booting an incorrect operating system image (col.5, lines 55-67).

**As per claim 12:** see Cromer on col.11, lines 31-35; discussing method of claim 11, wherein the step of examining is initiated upon a request to update the image, the method further including the step of loading an update image into random access memory (RAM).

**As per claim 13:** see Cromer on col.5, lines 15-18; discussing method of claim 11, wherein the step of examining is initiated upon a reset of the device.

**As per claim 14:** see Cromer on col.5, lines 55-67; discussing method of claim 11, wherein the step of examining comprises the steps of: creating a first hash of the image; extracting a second hash of the image from the catalog file; and comparing the first



Art Unit: 2135

hash and the second hash, and wherein a mismatch provides an indication that the image is not a properly released image.

**As per claim 15:** see Cromer on col.5, lines 15-67; discussing method of claim 14, further comprising the step of determining an operational mode of the device, and wherein the step of blocking the use of the image to boot the device is bypassed when the operational mode is set to test mode.

**As per claim 16:** see Cromer on col.1, lines 53-57 and col.5, lines 11-67; discussing the method of claim 11, wherein the step of examining comprises the steps of: extracting a signature certification from the catalog file; validating the signature certification; and wherein failure of the step of validating the signature certification provides an indication that the image is not a properly released image.

**As per claim 17:** see Cromer on col.5, lines 55-67; discussing method of claim 16, further comprising the step of determining an operational mode of the device, and wherein the step of blocking the use of the image to boot the device is bypassed when the operational mode is set to test mode.

**As per claim 18:** see Cromer on col.5, lines 22-35 and 55-67; discussing the method of claim 11, wherein the step of examining comprises the steps of: extracting first make and model attributes from the catalog file; comparing first make and model attributes from the catalog file to second make and model attributes of the device; and wherein a mismatch between the first and the second make and model attributes provides an indication that the image is not a properly released image for the device.

**As per claim 19:** see Cromer on col.5, lines 15-35; discussing method of claim 18,

Art Unit: 2135

further comprising the step of determining an operational mode of the device, and wherein the step of blocking the use of the image to boot the device is bypassed when the operational mode is set to test mode.

**As per claim 20:** see Vanderpool on col.11, lines 31-36; discussing method of claim 11, further comprising the step of loading the image into random access memory (RAM) of the device, and wherein the step of examining is processed after the step of loading.

**As per claim 21:** see Cromer on col.3, lines 22-26 and 60-62; discussing method of claim 11, wherein when the step of examining determines that the image is a properly released image, the method further comprising the steps of: erasing a previous image from flash memory of the device; programming the flash memory of the device with the properly released image.

**As per claim 22:** See Cromer on col.1, lines 53-57 and col.5, lines 11-67; discussing the method of claim 11, wherein the step of examining comprises the steps of: creating a first hash of the image; extracting a second hash of the image from the catalog file; comparing the first hash and the second hash; extracting a signature certification from the catalog file; validating the signature certification; and extracting first make and model attributes from the catalog file; comparing first make and model attributes from the catalog file to second make and model attributes of the device; and wherein any one of a first mismatch between the first hash and the second hash, a failure of the step of validating the signature certification, and a second mismatch

Art Unit: 2135

between the first and the second make and model attributes provides an indication that the image is not a properly released image for the device.

### **Conclusion**

**5. THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

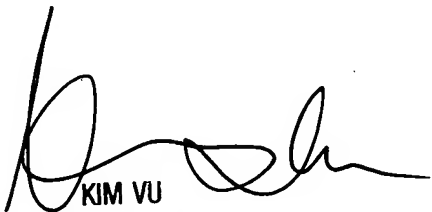
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to LEYNNA T. HA whose telephone number is (571) 272-3851. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday (7:00 - 5:00PM).

Art Unit: 2135

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kim Vu can be reached on (571) 272-3859. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

LHa



KIM VU  
SUPERVISORY PATENT L.  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER